



# COOP News

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## Pointers for Measuring Snow...

You can clearly feel fall in the air, and while most of us enjoy the turning of the leaves and the cooler weather, lest we forget it is just a precursor to winter. That being the case, we thought this would be a great time to refresh everyone's memory on how to measure the wintry precipitation. If you do not have a snow stick or snow board, let Jeff or Tabitha know and they will get one out to you. Here are some pointers:

1. Keep in mind that you need to remove your funnel and inner tube portion of the rain gauge in the winter to better accumulate snow in the gauge and also to keep the inner tube from freezing and cracking.
2. Snow Depth is the combined total depth of both the old and new snow on the ground. It is reported to the nearest inch. For instance, if you measure a half inch to an inch of snow, it would be reported as an inch, however, if you measure less than a half inch of snow, it would be reported as a Trace or "T".
3. Snow Fall is the amount of new snow that has fallen in the last 24 hours (since your last observation). It is reported to the nearest tenth of an inch.
4. If snow has fallen in the last 24 hours, but there is no accumulation on the ground when you do your observation, you would report a Trace or "T" of snowfall for the last 24 hours.
5. If you have snow drifts and snow depth is uneven...take your measurement from a location that is more representative of the actual amount of snow depth for your observation.

Here is a very informative presentation about measuring wintry precipitation put together by NWS Chanhassen, Minnesota:

<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/images/mpx/Coop/WinterWeatherTraining.pdf>



## Changing Time on The Nimbus



Autumn has arrived once again, and along with the season, comes the time change. Daylight Savings Time ends on the first Sunday in November, which will occur on November 1st this year. This being the case, those of you whom have a Nimbus MAX/MIN Temperature display will need to move your time back an hour on Sunday, November 1st, after you have taken your daily observation.

The procedure for resetting the time on the Nimbus is as follows:

1. Hold down the **Max/Min Recall** button for about 2 seconds, simultaneously flipping the **memory toggle switch** to the **On** position at the same time. The screen will momentarily be blank, but will then display E3E.3, signaling successful entering of the "Time Mode". When this occurs, release the Max/Min Recall button and the current time (as known by the instrument) will be displayed.
3. Setting the clock involves pushing various buttons/switches. The buttons change the unit's time in the following increments:
  - A. **Max/Min Recall** — Increases the hour in increments of one.
  - B. **Max/Min Clear** — Increases the minutes in increments of ten.
  - C. **Memory Read** — Increases the minutes in increments of one.

The time of your observation should be 00:00 (indicating midnight). If you take your observation at 7 am, then your box, at 7 am, should display 00:00. If you take your observation at 8 am, then your box, at 8 am, should display 00:00 as the time. Basically, on the 1st of November, at your observation time, the clock on the Nimbus will read 01:00 due to the time change. You will want to push the **Max/Min Recall** button 23 times, or until 00:00 is displayed to reset your time.

4. Once the time has been reset, flip the **Memory switch** back to the **Off** position and the new time takes effect.

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jeff Carico or Tabitha Brewer and one of us will gladly walk you through the process.



Visit us on the web at:

[www.weather.gov/jacksonky](http://www.weather.gov/jacksonky)

## Weather Folklore and Sayings

Recopied from [http://www.erh.noaa.gov/Newsleterrer/Fall\\_2010/folklore.html](http://www.erh.noaa.gov/Newsleterrer/Fall_2010/folklore.html)

Weather folklore is often dismissed as nothing more than a grab bag of sayings, old wives' tales, legends, and superstitions. In other words, folklore is considered the opposite of science. But folklore and science have more in common than you might imagine. What we call the scientific method is based on observation and evidence—and so is a great deal of weather folklore.

Here are several folklore sayings that can be scientifically explained:

1. **WHEN THE SUN DRAWS WATER, STORMS WILL FOLLOW:** The sun does not draw water. This saying describes an optical illusion in which the sun's rays alternate with bands of shadow to produce a fanlike effect. Those shadowy patches are dense clouds, some of which are thin enough to allow sunlight to reach the earth. However, the saying is not without merit. If the sun is obscured in the west, it means that moisture-laden clouds have gathered there, and it is quite possible that rain will follow if the temperature is favorable for the condensation of that moisture.
2. **MARCH COMES IN LIKE A LION AND GOES OUT LIKE A LAMB:** This well known saying is derived from the observation that March begins in winter and ends in spring. In Northern latitudes, temperatures are generally higher by the end of the month than during its first weeks. We may also look to the heavens to determine an explanation. The constellation of Leo, the lion, dominates the skies at the beginning of the month and the constellation Aries, the ram or lamb, prevails as the month winds down.
3. **NO WEATHER IS ILL, IF THE WIND IS STILL:** Calm conditions, especially with clear skies, indicate the dominance of a high-pressure system. When they are absent or weak, precipitation and cloud formation are much less likely.
4. **WHEN WINDOWS WON'T OPEN, AND THE SALT CLOGS THE SHAKER, THE WEATHER WILL FAVOR THE UMBRELLA MAKER:** Windows with wood frames tend to stick when the air is full of moisture. The moisture swells the wood, making windows and doors more difficult to budge. By the same token, salt is very effective at absorbing moisture, so it clumps together rather than pouring out. As moisture collects in the air, there is a greater likelihood of precipitation.
5. **LIGHTNING NEVER STRIKES THE SAME PLACE TWICE:** This is one of the most famous weather sayings, and it is wrong. Lightning not only can strike the same place twice, but it seems to prefer high locations. New York City's Empire State Building, for example, is struck about 25 times every year.



## ESTHER CHILDRESS JOHN CAMPANIOUS HOLM AWARD RECIPIENT



Shawn Harley, Meteorologist-in-Charge, presenting  
the John Campanious Holm Award to Esther Childress

The National Weather Service in Jackson, Kentucky is very proud to announce that Esther Childress is one of the 25 cooperative observer, nationwide, selected to receive a John Campanious Holm Award for 2015.

Mrs. Childress was presented the Holm Award on Wednesday, September 23, 2015 by Shawn Harley, Meteorologist-In-Charge.

Mrs. Childress has been a cooperative observer for the National Weather Service since April 1, 1964. In 2004, she received a 50 Year Length of Service Award.

When gathering information needed to prepare the award nomination packet for Mrs. Childress, the outpouring of support from her community was unbelievable. Mrs. Childress is very civic-minded and has devoted her life to helping others. This is not surprising once you meet her. During her lifetime, Mrs. Childress has had several life-threatening injuries, yet she has never failed to report precipitation totals to the National Weather Service.

It is for her dedication to the service to her community, as well as the National Weather Service, that the National Weather Service Office in Jackson, Kentucky respectfully recognizes Mrs. Childress.



Did you know that we have a link on our Internet page that will take you to our Local, as well as Regional and National Cooperative Observers Pages? This page contains information on award winners as well as other interesting facts and info.

<http://www.weather.gov/jkl/coop>



## Reminders and Tips

1. If you enter your observation in Wxcoder, please have the observation entered by 9:30 a.m. We use the data you submit to produce a morning Regional Temperature and Precipitation Summary (RTP) that is displayed on our web page. This report must be generated before 10 a.m.
2. If you are going out of town, please try to notify us ahead of time. Our email addresses are: [jeffrey.carico@noaa.gov](mailto:jeffrey.carico@noaa.gov) and [tabitha.brewer@noaa.gov](mailto:tabitha.brewer@noaa.gov), or call us.
3. Let us know ASAP if you are experiencing problems with your temperature equipment. Some errors we can help you correct when you call, others may require a home visit.
4. If you miss taking an observation and you have the NIMBUS max/min box, you can call us and we can step you back through to get the max, min and at observation temps.
5. If your box is displaying -99.9, that generally means there has been a loss of power to the box. In this instance, check to see that the box is plugged in. If the box is plugged in, then gently push in on the plug in the back of the box to ensure it is making connection. If -99.9 still displays, unplug your box, then plug it back in. If all of the above fails to clear the -99.9, call and let us know. A home visit may be required.
6. If your box is displaying an "L", that means the back-up battery needs to be replaced.
7. Remember to enter zeroes in the snowfall and snow depth columns on your B91s as well as entering them into Wxcoder. This gets you ready for the winter season and becomes a habit. It is also important that the columns on your B91 are all filled in, even if no precipitation has occurred.
8. It is the time of year to start scheduling routine visits, so don't be surprised if you get a phone call from a staff member of the Jackson NWS Office to set up a time to visit.
9. If you are a Fisher Porter site, please get those cards mailed out to us by the 15th of the month.

